Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of handling data packets in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), comprising:

(a)   contending for control of a medium over which data is to be transmitted, by a plurality of nodes in the network;

(b)   when control of the medium has been established by a first node in the network, transmitting a first data packet from that first node, which has control of the medium, to a second node in the network;

(c)   receiving, at that second node, the transmitted data packet;

(d)   generating, at that second node, a combined data/acknowledgement packet which contains both an acknowledgement of receipt of the said first data packet by the said second node and also a second data packet intended for delivery to the said first node from the said second node; and

(e)   transmitting the said combined data/acknowledgement packet from the said second node to the said first node.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(f)   receiving, at the first node, the said combined data/acknowledgement packet;

(g)   generating, at that first node, a further combined data/acknowledgement packet which contains both an acknowledgement of receipt of the said second data packet by the said first node and a third data packet intended for delivery to

the said second node from the said first node; and

     (h)   transmitting the further combined data/acknowledgement packet from the said first node to the said second node.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

     (i)   receiving at the second node, the said further combined data/acknowledgement packet;

     (j)   generating, at that second node, a still further combined data/acknowledgement packet which contains both an acknowledgement of receipt of the said third data packet by the said second node and a fourth data packet intended for delivery to the said first node from the said second node; and

     (k)   transmitting the still further combined data/acknowledgement packet from the said second node to the said first node.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

     iteratively repeating steps (f) to (h) for each of the fifth, sixth, seventh, ...n^{th} data packets.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the iterative repetition terminates when either a maximum time of medium control by the first node is reached, or when there are no further data packets to be transmitted.

6.   (Currently) The method of ~~any proceeding claim,~~ <u>claim 1,</u> wherein the step (a) of contending for control of the medium is carried out in accordance with carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (CSMA/CA).

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step (a) of
contention for control of the medium is in accordance with
Enhanced Distributed Coordination Function Channel Access (EDCA).

8.   (Currently) The method of ~~any one of claims 2,3,4 or 5~~ claim
2, further comprising, following receipt of the, or the further,
data/acknowledgement packet, the step of extracting, from that
data/acknowledgement packet, the data contained therein, and
extracting the acknowledgement therefrom as well.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of
extracting are carried out when it is determined by the receiving
node either that the received packet is longer than an
acknowledgement of receipt alone, or that the received packet has
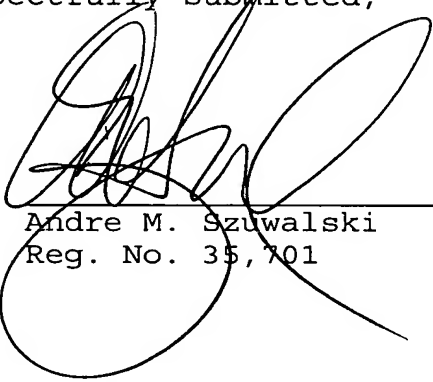a header which indicates that both data and acknowledgement are
contained therein.

10.   (Currently) The method of any ~~proceeding~~ claim 1, wherein
the step of generating a combined data/acknowledgement packet
comprises either concatenating an IEEE 802.11 ACK frame with a data
payload, or comprises altering a header to an IEEE 802.11 data
frame to indicate that the frame carries both a data payload and an
acknowledgement of receipt.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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